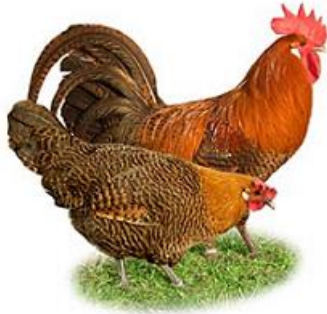




SOUTHERN AFRICAN SHOW POULTRY ORGANISATION BREED STANDARDS

BRAKEL (BRAEKEL)



ORIGIN:	Belgium
CLASSIFICATION:	Light breed: Soft feather
EGG COLOUR:	White (Non-Sitters)
MASSES:	
LARGE FOWL:	
Male:	3.2 kg
Female:	2.8 kg
BANTAM:	
Male:	800 g
Female:	750 g

In documents from 1416 it was found that the 'Braekel' was already known in the villages of Op- en Nederbraekel in the Oudenaarde region of Belgium around 1400, where they were kept mainly for their eggs. From this region the Braekel slowly spread to other parts of the country. In 1898 the first Braekel club was founded in Nederbraekel, "The Society of Braekels", and in 1899 the first official standard was drawn up which led to more uniformity within the breed.

In 1926 the Belgisch Nationaal Verbond renamed the Braekel to 'Kempische Brakel', where the Old Dutch spelling of 'Braekel' was changed to the newer Dutch spelling of 'Brakel' and finally the name was changed by the Belgische Landsbond to 'Brakel' in 1962, although, the spelling is still 'Braekel' in the book of standards of the Netherlands.

After the Second World War the number of Brakels in Belgium declined rapidly and in 1969 the situation had become so bad that the number of pure Brakels in Belgium could be counted on one hand. An urgent appeal to assemble all the remaining Brakels in order to try to save the breed was published in the newspapers but without success. The Brakel was about to disappear forever, but in 1971 the second Brakel Club was founded and all the remaining silver Brakels were assembled. They could only find a rooster from Germany, two hens and twelve eggs and also one golden rooster. The Brakel breed was revived from these few birds.

Brakel males, which have normal cock feathering, are easily distinguished from the hen-feathered Campine males. The females of both breeds are very similar, but the Brakel hens are heavier and stockier and have semi-erect single combs.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

THE MALE

- Carriage:** Alert and graceful.
- Type/Body:** Body: proportionately long and deep. Back: moderately long, wide at the shoulders, narrowing to base of the tail. Breast: full, wide and deep, well rounded, carried well forward but not beyond a line drawn perpendicular with tip of beak. Wings: large and carried high, well above the lower thighs, tips concealed by saddle feathers and ending short of stern. Tail: long, carried well out, long and broad, carried at an angle of 45 degrees and well spread. Sickles: broad, long and well curved. Secondaries, coverts and saddle hackles: long and abundant.
- Head:** Medium size. Beak: medium length and slightly curved. Eyes: black, full round and bright. Comb: single, upright, of medium size, evenly serrated with 5-6 serrations, the back: carried well out and clear of the neck, slightly coarse. Face: smooth. Ear-lobes: oval shape, medium sized and free from wrinkles. Wattles: medium size, well rounded and smooth.
- Neck:** Moderately long, gracefully arched and well covered with hackle feathers.
- Legs and feet:** Legs: moderately long shanks and feet free from feathers. Toes: four, medium length and well spread.

THE FEMALE

With the exception of the back of the semi-erect single comb falling gracefully to one side of the face, the front part still upright, the general characteristics are similar to those of the male, allowing for the natural sexual differences.

SERIOUS DEFECTS

Lack of barring on breast. Indistinct barring on female's back. White in face. Lack of size in adult birds. Excess ticking in neck hackle. Male's comb twisted or falling over. The female's comb not semi-erect. Sickles not well-developed in male. Eyes light or brown. Any deformity.

COLOURS

In both sexes and colours:

Beak: horn. Eyes: dark brown with black pupil. Face and wattles: bright red. Comb: red, sometimes with dark pigmentation. The back of the comb in hen falls gracefully over to one side of the face. Ear-lobes: white. Legs and feet: leaden blue. Toe nails: horn. Under-colour: slate.

THE GOLDEN

THE MALE AND FEMALE

Plumage:

Head, back and saddle hackles: rich golden-bay (golden brown), remainder beetle-green black barring on rich golden-bay ground colour. Every feather must be barred in a transverse direction with the end golden bay; the black bars must be 2-4 times wider than the golden-bay bars. The bars must have clear and with well-defined edges, running across the feather so as to form, as near as possible, rings around the body.

The male should be furnished with properly developed sickles and golden bay neck and saddle hackles.

THE SILVER

THE MALE AND FEMALE

Plumage:

Head and neck hackle: pure white, remainder beetle-green black barring on pure white ground colour. Every feather must be barred in a transverse direction with the end pure silver white; the black bars must be 2-4 times wider than the white ground colour bars. The bars must have clear and with well-defined edges, running across the feather so as to form, as near as possible, rings around the body.

The male should be furnished with properly developed sickles and silver white neck and saddle hackles.

BANTAMS

The Bantams are to be exact miniatures of their large fowl counterparts and so standard, colour and scale of points to apply. The smaller comb of the bantam female seldom falls over; an upright comb must not be disqualified.

SCALE OF POINTS	
Type	20
Head	15
Colour	20
Size	10
Legs and feet	10
Markings	20
Condition	5
TOTAL	100